THE WONDERFVLL Battell of STARELINGES

Fought at the Citie of *Corke* in *Ireland*, the 11. and 14. of October last past. 1631.

As it hath beene credibly informed by diuers Noblemen, and others of the said Kingdome, &c.

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BRITISH
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To The Reader.

Gentle Reader:

To report ſtrange and admirable accidents, is ſubiect both to danger and diſgrace: to danger, in that they may bee held as prodigious, or ominous: to diſgrace, in that they may bee repuſed fabulous. There can be no danger in reporting, ſo that there bee no prognoſticating, which by all meanes I doe forbeare: onely I will ſay with the Royall Prophet, Admirabilis Deus in omnibus operibus ſuis, *God is wonderfull in all his workes. And with* Saint Auguſtine, *That* as it was not impoſſible for Almighty God in his firſt creation to make what variety of creatures he pleaſed, ſo it is not impoſſible for his diuine Maieſty to alter and change the ordinary courſe and diſpoſition of the creatures which hee hath made. *Which may appeare in this Narration following, the like neuer heard or euer ſeene, by teſtimony of any*

record or history in any Countrey heretofore. I need not to feare disgrace in reporting so strange an Accident to be reputed fabulous, being able to free my selfe from any suspition of such an imputation by certificate of Letters, from Right Honorable persons in Ireland where the accident fell out, to Right Honourable persons at Court, and diuers in London at this present: as also by the testimony of Right Honourable and Worshipfull persons, & others of good reputation now in London, who were eye-witnesses, beholding the same, during the time it continued. Notwithstanding so ample proofe of what I write, yet I doe confesse, that so many poeticall fictions haue of late passed the print, that they haue some cause to suspect almost euery extraordinary report that is printed: but now that abuse done to the Common-wealth is vtterly taken away: for no Currantos, no reports of History, with the like, may now passe the print, without strict examination, and sufficient approbation, as in experience and tryall will be found hereafter. These strange newes out of Ireland had beene printed before this time, but that it hath beene stayed till the truth were fully certified and examined.

THE WONDERFVLL Battell of Starelings, fought at the Citie of *Corke* in *Ireland*, the 12. and 14. of October, 1621.

As it hath beene credibly enformed by diuers Noblemen, and others, of the said Kingdome, &c.

CORKE is a City in the west of *Ireland* in the Prouince of *Munster*, for situation, and all commodities which Sea or land may afford, not inferior to any Citie in that Country. About the seuenth of October last, *Anno* 1621. there gathered

thered together by degrees, an vnuſual multitude of birds called Stares, in ſome Countries knowne by the name of Starlings: theſe birds are for the quantitie of their bodies ſtrong, for their qualitie bold and ventrous, amongſt themſelues very louing, as may appeare by their flights keeping together all times of the yeare, excepting the breeding time. It is, and hath beene an old prouerbe, that *Birds of a feather hold and keep together*, which hath euer beene a common cuſtome in theſe as much as in any other kinde whatſoeuer: but now the old prouerb is changed, and their cuſtome is altered cleane contrary. For at this time, as theſe birds are in taſte bitter, ſo they met to fight together the moſt bittereſt and ſharpeſt battell amongſt themſelues, the like, for the manner of their fight, and for the time the battell did continue, neuer heard or ſeene at any time in any Country of the world.

We reade in the Hiſtories of our owne Countrie, that in the twelfth yeare of *King Richard*

Richard the ſecond, That the Gnats muſtered together at *Shine*, now called *Richmond*, in great abundance, with ſo great a multitude, that the ayre was obſcured and darkned by them. They fought ſo violent a battell among themſelues, that by eſtimation two parts of them were ſlaine, and fell to the ground: the number of thoſe which were killed, was ſo great, that they were taken vp with ſhouels, and ſwept together with beſomes, that buſhels were filled with them, the third part hauing gotten the victory, flew away and vaniſhed, no man knew whither.

Now to come to the fight of our birds, the Stares or Starlings, they muſtered together at this aboue-named Citie of *Corke*, ſome foure or fiue daies, before they fought their battels, euery day more and more encreaſing their armies with greater ſupplies, ſome came as from the Eaſt, others from the Weſt, and ſo accordingly they placed themſelues, and as it were encamped themſelues

ſelues eaſtward and weſtward about the citie, during which time their noiſe and tunes were ſtrange on both ſides to the great admiration of the citizens and the inhabitants near adioyning, who had neuer ſeene for multitude, or euer heard for loud tunes which they vttered, the like before. Whereupon they more curiouſly obſeruing the couſes and paſſages they vſed, noted that from thoſe on the Eaſt, and from thoſe on the Weſt, ſundry flights, ſome twenty or thirty in a company, would paſſe from the one ſide to the other, as it ſhould ſeeme imployed in embaſſages, for they would flye and houer in the ayre ouer the aduerſe party with ſtrange tunes and noiſe, and ſo returne backe againe to that ſide from which as it ſeemed they were ſent.

And further it was obſerued, that during the time they aſſembled, the Stares of the eaſt ſought their meare eaſtward, as the Stares of the weſt did the like weſtward, no one flying in the circuits of the other. Theſe

courſes

courſes and cuſtomes continued with them vntill the xij. of *October*, which day beeing *Saturday*, about nine of the clocke in the morning, being a very faire and Sun-ſhine day, vpon a ſtrange ſound and noiſe made as well on the one ſide as on the other, they forthwith at one inſtant tooke wing, and ſo mounting vp into the skyes, encountered one another, with ſuch a terrible ſhocke, as the ſound amazed the whole city and all the beholders. Vpon this ſodaine and fierce encounter, there fell downe into the citie, and into the Riuers, multitudes of Starelings or Stares, ſome with wings broken, ſome with legs and necks broken, ſome with eies pickt out, ſome their bils thruſt into the breſts & ſides of their aduerſaries, in ſo ſtrange a manner, that it were incredible except it were confirmed by letters of credit, and by eye-witneſſes, with that aſſurance which is without all exception.

Vpon the firſt encounter they withdrew themſelues backward eaſt and weſt, & with

like eagernesse and fury encountred seueral times, vpon all which these Stares fel down in like strange and admirable manner, as vpon the first encounter. They continued this admirable and most violent battell till a little before night, at which time they seemed to vanish, so that all Sunday the xiij. of *October* none appeared about the Citie.

Vpon this Sunday diuers passengers came out of *Suffolke*, who sailing betwixt *Graues-end* and *Wolwigge*, they heard a loud and strange noyse and sound in the aire, whereupon casting their eyes vpward, they saw infinite multitudes of Stares fighting in all violent manner together, with a Crow or Rauen flying betwixt them, for the flight being so high, they could not perfectly discerne, whether it was Crow or Rauen: these birds had also seuerall encounters, making great sound and noise, and euer as they diuided and retired themselues, the Crow or rauen was seene in the middest. But what slaughter was made they could not obserue

because

becauſe the euening was ſomewhat darke and the battel was fought ouer woods more remote off, but for more aſſured proofe of this fight the Sunday before named, there are at this time in *London* diuers perſons of worth and very honeſt reputation, whom the Printer of this Pamphlet can produce to iuſtifie what they ſaw, as cauſe ſhall require, vpon their oaths.

Now to returne to the laſt battell fought at Corke by theſe Stares. Vpon Munday the xiiij. of *October*, they made their returne againe, and at the ſame time, the day being as faire a Sun-ſhine day as it was the Saturday before, they mounted into the aire and encountred each other with like violent aſſaults as formerly they had done, and fell into the city vpon the houſes, and into the Riuer, wounded and ſlaughtered in like manner as before is reported: but at this laſt battell there was a Kite, a Rauen and a Crow all three found dead in the ſtreets, rent, torn and mangled.

In

IN this precedent narration one report wil cause most admiration, and that is the Stares or Starelings forbearing and absenting themselues from Corke vpon Sunday being the xiii. of October, should that same day bee seene to fight neare or not farre off from Wolwige, whether the same Stares, it may bee held in respect of the distance of the place by sea and land improbable: but this improbability is soone answered, for as the fight at Corke may seeme strange and improbable, yet being most assured that such a battle was fought, it may be as probable in the wonderfull workes of Almighty God, that notwithstanding the distance of place, these may be the same Stares. Howsoeuer, I wil dispute these matters no further, sithence in the workes of Almighty God, being contrary to the ordinary workes of his creation, all the reason which can be alleadged for them, is the omnipotent power of the Almighty Creator. As when contrary to ordinary course of Nature in the battell fought by Duke *Iosua*, the Sunne stayed his course the space of a day. So when at the prayer of *Ezechias* the Sunne retired his course x. degrees: what other reason can be yeelded but the omnipotent power of Almighty God. So that albeit we should not be curious to search out reasons for the wonderfull workes of Almighty God, yet it doth import all Christians not to bee careless, but that they must know and consider there

is no wonderfull or miraculous worke, but it doth prognosticate either Gods mercy to draw vs to repentance, or his iustice to punish our sinnes and wickednesse, if we doe not make haste to repent in due time, when his mercy is offered, or his iustice threatned.

FINIS.